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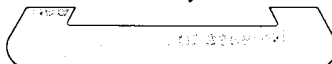
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NPIC/IEG (1/82)  
13 JANUARY 1982

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FIRST DEPLOYMENT OF ROMANIAN M-1978 TANK  
TOPRAISAR ARMY BARRACKS 1, ROMANIA

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1. (S/D) SIGNIFICANCE: THE ROMANIAN-PRODUCED M-1978 TANK HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH AN ACTIVE UNIT. TWENTY-ONE M-1978 WERE OBSERVED AT TOPRAISAR ARMY BARRACKS 1

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2. (S/D) REMARKS: THIS INSTALLATION HOUSES THE 34TH MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT (MRR) OF THE 9TH MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION IN SOUTHEASTERN ROMANIA. THE NEW TANKS ARE EVIDENTLY REPLACING THE T-34 TANKS WITH WHICH THIS MRR WAS PREVIOUSLY EQUIPPED. THE M-1978 MAY HAVE BEEN PRESENT WHEN 15 UNIDENTIFIED TANKS WERE SEEN IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL 21 T-34. THE T-34 WERE ATYPICALLY CANVAS COVERED, WHICH INDICATED THAT THEY HAD APPARENTLY BEEN PLACED IN STORAGE.

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(S/D) ANALYST'S COMMENTS: THE M-1978 TANK IS OF APPROXIMATELY THE SAME CLASS AS THE SOVIET T-55. ACCORDING TO COLLATERAL, IT HAS A PROBABLE 100MM GUN AS DOES THE T-55. IT DIFFERS FROM THE T-55 IN HAVING A DIFFERENT TRACK SYSTEM, SIDE SKIRTS, A DIFFERENT TURRET, AND A LARGER, MORE POWERFUL ENGINE. THE PROTOTYPE OF THE M-1978 WAS PRODUCED IN 1976 OR 1977 AT MIZIL

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ARMORED VEHICLE REPAIR AND DEVELOPMENT PLANT

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THE MIZIL PLANT MAY STILL BE INVOLVED IN REBUILDING T-55 TANKS  
TO M-1978 STANDARDS.

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3. (S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 44-01-23N 028-28-11E.

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4. (S) COLLATERAL AND OTHER REFERENCES:

(S) DIA, DDB-1100-R0-81, GROUND ORDER OF BATTLE:  
ROMANIA (U) JANUARY 1981.

(S) ARMY/USAREUR, EUR-1100-TOERO-81, USAREUR MILITARY  
INTELLIGENCE HANDBOOK: ROMANIA VOLUME ONE - TABLES OF  
ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT/GENERAL, OCTOBER 1981.

(C) DOD. [REDACTED] AVRIG VEHICLE FACTORY,  
9 MARCH 1981.

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(C) DOD. [REDACTED] AVRIG MECHANICAL PLANT, MIRSA,  
2 JANUARY 1981.

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